

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

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14. REMOVAL OF THE NORTHERN LEAF WARBLER,  
*PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS ACREDULA* (LINNAEUS)  
FROM THE INDIAN AVIFAUNA

The inclusion of the Northern Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus trochilus acredula* (Linnaeus) in the Indian avifauna is based on a single ♂ obtained by Salim Ali at Dediapada, Rajpipla, Gujerat on 29 March 1946 (Collector's No. GS 1137) and identified by Meinertzhagen and confirmed by Dr. James Harrison. The label is later marked *P. tyleri* and initialled DR (Dillon Ripley) but repeated as *P. trochilus acredula* (Linnaeus) in both INDIAN HANDBOOK (1973, 8: 134) and SYNOPSIS (1982). The 6th primary is emarginate and if the key in INDIAN HANDBOOK is accepted, this identification is erroneous and the bird has to be removed from the Indian list.

As we had just commenced with this notoriously difficult group, we thought it best to refer it to the British Museum (N.H.) whence Mr. Peter Colston confirms that the specimen B.N.H.S. No. 6112 (other details as above) is neither *trochilus* nor *tyleri* but, as we had suspected earlier, *P. trochiloides viridanus*. While the first mistake could have started with a slip in the writing or reading of *trochiloides*, the later identification as *tyleri* is inexplicable.

In any case it would appear fairly certain that the Leaf Warbler *P. trochilus acredula* No. 1572 in INDIAN HANDBOOK and SYNOPSIS is wrongly identified and must be removed from the Indian list.

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January 31, 1985.

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